

# Ignite

the newsletter sparked by you

2026 Quarter 1 ✨ Issue 2



# LETTER

*from the*

# CEO: WENDY FORKAS

Adjoin is celebrating 2026 as The Year of People, a year dedicated to empowering and uplifting every person connected to our mission. From our mission to our policies, we work to create a culture that is accepting, inclusive, and rewarding for clients, team members, and community stakeholders.

This year, we will focus on strengthening the foundation of our organization by completing a new strategic plan that keeps people, those we serve, our team members, and our communities, at the center of every goal. Our advocacy efforts will expand as we continue to speak boldly for the rights, inclusion, and belonging of individuals who are often marginalized. We will also grow and diversify our service options to ensure we are meeting the evolving needs of the people we serve with innovation, compassion, and excellence.

Equally important, 2026 will mark a renewed investment in our team. We will focus on recruitment, onboarding, training, and retention strategies that build a strong, inspired, and skilled workforce striving to exceed our highest team member count to date.

Through enhanced training and consistent practices across all departments and locations, we will ensure quality, collaboration, and belonging remain at the heart of all we do. Together, we will grow our donor base, strengthen our community partnerships, and make 2026 a year that celebrates and advances people, the reason Adjoin exists and the source of our continued success.



Sincerely,

Wendy Forkas  
CEO, Adjoin

## ORG REPORT

as of March 31, 2026

- 369** team members
- 808** Veteran clients
- 699** Catalyst clients
- 638** Path-Now clients





## APPRECIATING THE IMPACTFUL WITH



Adjoin had the opportunity to do something that nonprofits rarely have the ability to do: appreciate our team with a free event. In partnership with USI Insurance Services, Adjoin was able to host a 2-hour happy hour for our direct service team members at Novo Brew in San Diego. Adjoin team members who serve homeless veterans and team members who serve people with disabilities took shelter from the rain after work to share food, drinks, and stories!

The work we do is not thankless, but the appreciation we get from the people we serve is unspoken. From the stories they are brave enough to tell us to the smiles they share move us forward toward our mission; to create limitless pathways for people to belong where they **live**, **work**, **learn**, and **play**. Some of our team members were in genuine shock and disbelief that this was entirely for them and was entirely free.

The impact of essential services like the ones Adjoin provides to homeless veterans and people living with disabilities, are felt but rarely seen. However, when our work is seen by others, it has a way of inspiring collaboration, mobilizing the masses, and bring an infectious smile to everyone's face.

Thank you to USI for showing their appreciation for what Adjoin does! We appreciate community partners like USI who recognize that what we do is important.

Collaborations big or small are valuable gestures that lets our direct service team know that the community around them cares. It is motivation that adds to the fulfilling work we do directly with clients. Every client we serve is one less veteran off the sidewalk and one more person with disabilities living their full potential.

**Thank you USI!**

The happy hour was a great experience for me as a Director. I really appreciated the chance to see our team relax, spend time together, and be recognized for the work they put in all year. I also heard positive feedback from my veterans team members. They shared that they could feel the genuine appreciation from our USI partners for the work we do.

– Elena, Veterans Director

## IMPERIAL VALLEY COOKOFF FOR VETS WITH



Adjoin's community roots are deeply woven into the fabric of Imperial County. From Slab City to El Centro, our Veterans Division connects veterans with housing in a community that takes care of their neighbors.

In 2024, Adjoin connected with the Barbara Worth Country Club as they began to convert part of their hotel into studio rentals. Since then, they have grown to be one of Adjoin's trusted partners in housing, giving quality accommodations to veterans in need of a stable place to call home. Residents of the Country Club enjoy the grounds and have a breathtaking view of the golf course.

In February, the Barbara Worth Country Club hosted a Tri-Tip Cookoff event to raise money and awareness for Adjoin Veterans services. Our team got to attend and connect with residents and Country Club regulars over perfectly cooked BBQ. Adjoin Veteran residents received a free plate of BBQ while enjoying the evening!

“

Huge shoutout to Adjoin for the incredible work they do in our community. Their agency goes above and beyond to support individuals and families by providing compassionate services, guidance, and real opportunities for growth and independence. When I needed support navigating resources and felt overwhelmed, their team stepped in with patience, kindness, and real solutions. They didn't just offer services, they truly cared. Because of Adjoin, I felt supported, understood, and empowered. Thank you for making a real difference every single day.

-Veteran Client

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Adjoin Veteran clients enjoy a peace that only stability and safety can create thanks to this partnership made possible by businesses like Barbara Worth Country Club and Adjoin.

We know that building a world of inclusion does not happen on our own. Contact Adjoin to see how you can make a difference in your community!

**Thank you Barbara Worth Country Club!**





## A COMMUNITY WELCOME LIKE NO OTHER!

Art can be a powerful force bringing people together, conveying shared interests, and create beauty in all communities. The Adjoin ARTE program did just that during their grand opening event in the City of Chula Vista.

We were honored to have the CEO of the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce, Marcy Weaver, and the Mayor of Chula Vista, John McCann, meet our clients, buy locally made art, and share inspiring words of support to the crowd.

The thing that I loved most about the open house was the ribbon cutting. I want to say special thank you to our mayor of Chula Vista, John McCann. Thank you, John McCann. For taking your time to come and support us, it was an honor to have you for our open house.

-Pamela, ARTE Artist

The City of Chula Vista has a local community feel that is involved, supportive, active, and collaborative. Their presence reinforced the value and impact of the work being done and the importance of inclusive programming in our community.

Moments like this bring Adjoin's mission to life in the most meaningful way. Seeing the pride, creativity, connection, and heart in the room genuinely moved me. I left feeling deeply grateful and incredibly fortunate to work alongside such extraordinary people.

-Carlos, Catalysts Regional Director

The ARTE program empowers adults with autism and other intellectual and developmental disabilities to create, share, and sell their own art. Our ARTE artists collectively made over \$450 in sales. This is not only a financial milestone for them, but a powerful reflection of community, inclusion, and the meaningful opportunities we are creating together.

**Thank you Mayor McCann & the Chula Vista Chamber of Commerce!**

## UNBELIEVABLE GROWTH FOR THE AUTISM, INTELLECTUAL & DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY COMMUNITY!

Leaping into the tech space has been an exciting and transformative journey for Adjoin, and there's no turning back! Our commitment to innovation has fueled creativity, flexibility, and problem-solving at every step, driving us to build something truly one-of-a-kind for the autism, intellectual, and developmental disability (IDD) community.

February marked our highest increase in new clients in a single month, and the first quarter of 2026 set a new record for total growth with 147 new clients added. This momentum reflects more than numbers. It shows a rising demand for accessible, human-centered tools that make a real difference in people's lives.

Behind the scenes, the team is hard at work developing major platform updates designed to make Path-Now more intuitive and empowering than ever.

Alongside these enhancements, we're launching new media campaigns and community outreach efforts to expand engagement and strengthen connections with the people we serve.

No matter how much we innovate, the heart of Path-Now will always be human. Our team continues to show up where it matters most with compassion, collaboration, and community spirit. Some of the events we participated in this quarter include:

- ✳ Navigating Change Forum
- ✳ SDSU Parent Support Group
- ✳ San Diego Center for the Blind Open House
- ✳ Nonprofit NetWalk at Gigi's Playhouse

Each connection underscores our belief that technology can amplify the power of human care, not replace it.

*Check out [www.path-now.com](http://www.path-now.com)*



**"POWERED BY  
POSSIBILITY,  
DRIVEN BY  
YOU."** – WENDY FORKAS, CEO



## **THANK YOU DONORS!**

### **Thank you to our new donor! The Shoemaker Family**

Your gift provides the foundation to

- Ensure no veteran goes without housing
- Give purpose to people with disabilities
- Provide continuous support for individuals building independent lives
- Respond quickly to community needs
- Plan confidently for program expansion

### **Welcome New Pathway Partner Edwin Woo**

Pathway Partners is a monthly giving program where supporters donate monthly to help expand services, serve more clients, and create lasting impact for all.

Thank you for joining us on this path!

**Contact us to learn more!**

**impact@adjoin.org  858.263.1077**

Adjoin  
9444 Farnham St. #210  
San Diego, CA 92123

Thank you for staying connected with Adjoin!

Adjoin provides essential community services on a foundation of positivity so everyone receives the best possible care by people at their best! Our clients need a dedicated team around them and we need a dedicated community around us!



Become a  
Pathway  
Partner  
today!



Contact us for  
more information!  
[impact@adjoin.org](mailto:impact@adjoin.org)  
858-263-1077

adjoin.org